マイガール

佐原ミズ

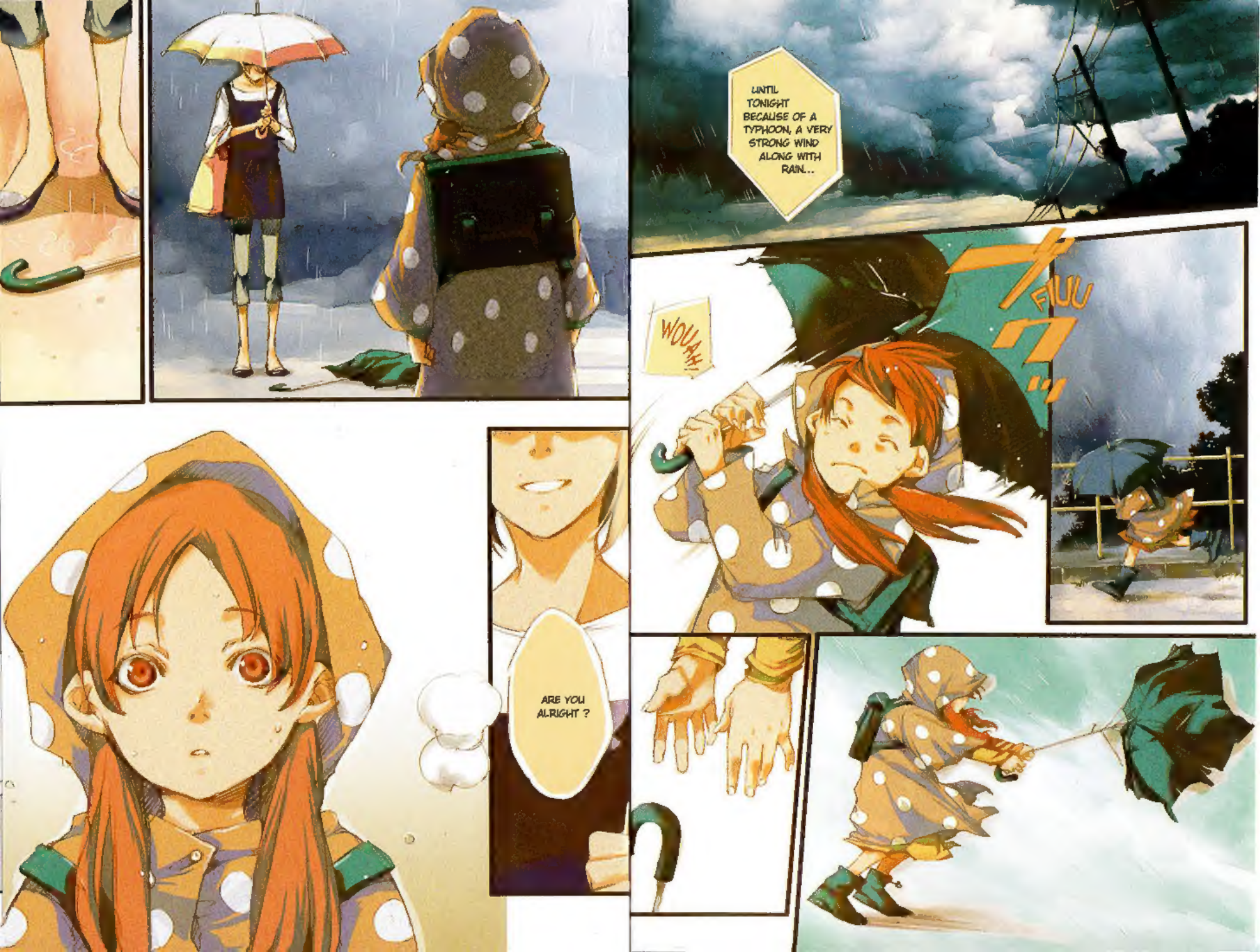
4

Please stay with me...

Mizu Sahara

My girl

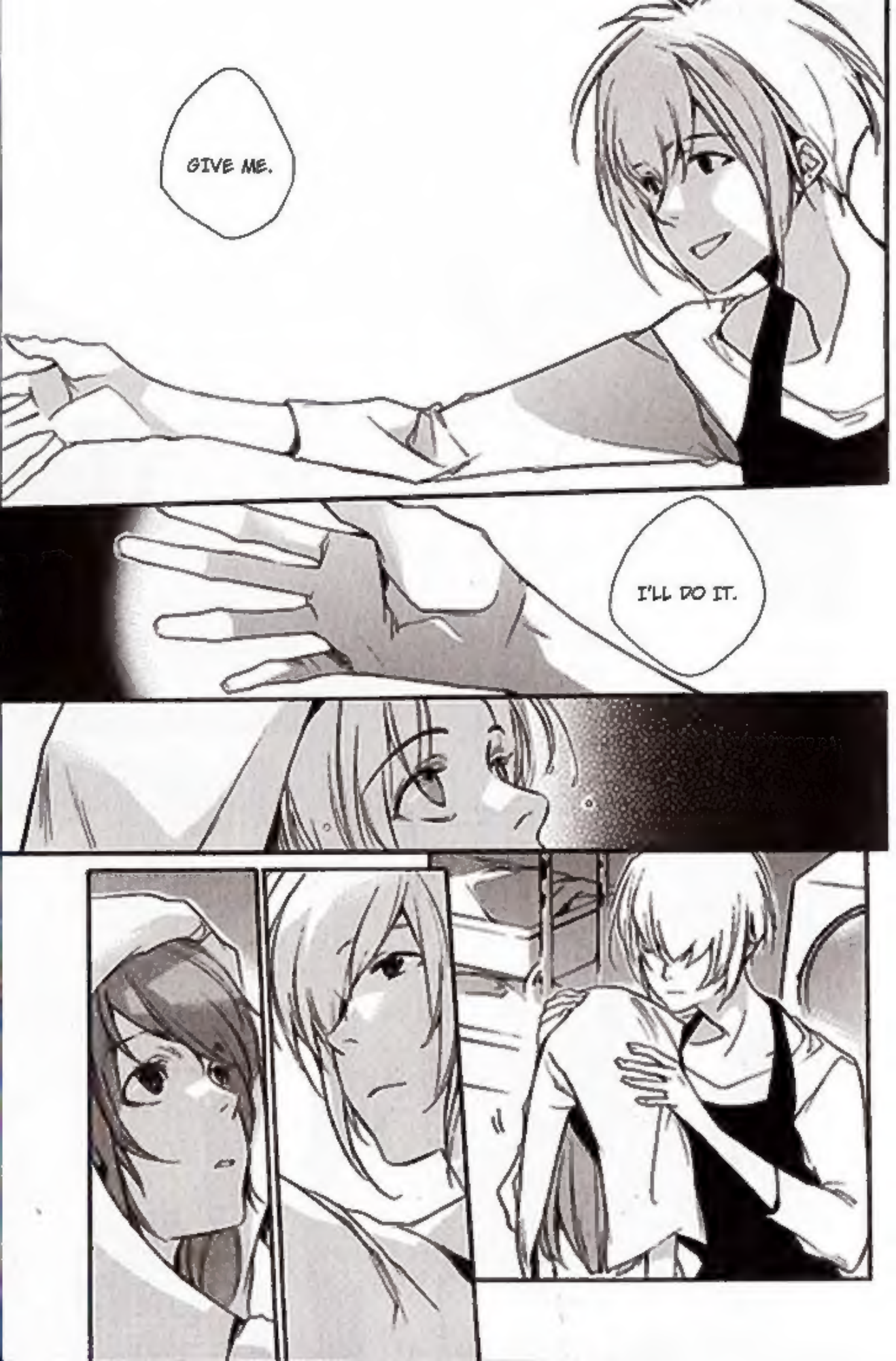
The 27th day :
The broken washing machine


UNTIL TONIGHT BECAUSE OF A TYPHOON, A VERY STRONG WIND ALONG WITH RAIN...
WOUAH!
FIUU
ARE YOU ALRIGHT ?

My girl

KINOUCHI LAUNDROMAT
...
ジワ〜ン
ジワ〜ン

DID YOU DRY YOURSELF ?
AH...
LIAR !
YOUR HAIR IS DRIP-PING.
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD!
S...SORRY.
I'LL DRY MYSELF BETTER.
YE...
YES...


GIVE ME.
I'LL DO IT.

WHAT SHALL WE DO FOR YOUR CLOTHES ?
THE ONES YOU WERE WEARING ARE DRY, BUT...
IT'S RAINING LESS NOW.
YOU WILL BE ABLE TO GO HOME.
ALRIGHT ...

IS ALL OF THIS WHAT SOME PEOPLE LEFT ?
YEAH, SOMETIMES CLIENTS DON'T COME AND GET THEIR LAUNDRY, EVEN WHEN YOU CALL THEM...
AH, I KNOW.
I THINK THERE WERE SOME FORGOTTEN CLOTHES ...
I'M SURE THERE WERE SOME CHILD'S CLOTHING HERE...
ACK, IT'S NOT RIGHT.
BASEBALL 03
IT'S FOR BOYS.
AH...
HERE IT IS.

...
BUT THESE ARE BOY'S CLOTHES !
I WILL ...
I WILL WEAR THEM.
YES...
ARE YOU SURE ?
I WILL WEAR THEM.
UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR UMBRELLA IS ALL BROKEN UP...
I'LL THROW IT AWAY

B. .BUT, WHAT ABOUT YOUR SHOP ?
IT'S CURRENTLY CLOSED.
ALSO...
I'LL ESCORT YOU.
WHERE DO YOU LIVE ?
WHO WANTED TO OPEN THIS LAUDROMAT ...
IT WAS NOT ME...
...

THE WIND IS STILL BLOWING.
ABOUT YOUR UMBRELLA...
IF YOUR MOTHER GETS ANGRY AT YOU, TELL HER IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE WIND.
I DON'T HAVE A MOM ANYMORE, SO...
IT WILL BE FINE.
AH, JUST LIKE ME.

UNTIL LAST WEEK I WAS LIVING ON MY OWN AND WORKING IN A FIRM.
IT'S ALL SO SUDDEN.
I THOUGHT THAT WHEN I HAD ENOUGH MONEY I WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF MY MOTHER BUT. .
I WAS SOLELY MAKING PLANS, AND NOW IT'S OVER...
THE LAUNDROMAT WAS HERS..
I, WHO NEVER HELPED HER...
I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
IN THE EVENING, WHEN I'M ALONE AT HOME...
I TELL MYSELF THAT THE DOOR MIGHT OPEN...
AND SHE'LL COME IN...
SOMETIMES, I HAVE STRANGE SENSATIONS LIKE THESE ..
I WONDER HOW LONG THIS WILL KEEP ON.
...

AT THE TIME, I ONLY KNEW HOW TO COUNT TO TEN...
I HAD DECIDED TO OPEN IT MYSELF AND GO LOOK FOR HER.
ME, I WAS WAITING WHILE COUNTING ON MY FINGERS AND IF THE DOOR DIDN'T OPEN...
AFTER TEN DAYS, I WENT OUT ...
BUT I NEVER FOUND MY MOM.
BUT I'M HAPPY I OPENED THE DOOR, BECAUSE I COULD MEET SOMEONE AS IMPORTANT AS HER.
...
THEN ...
MAYBE I SHOULD DO THAT...

IF TEN DAYS FROM NOW SHE'S NOT BACK YET...
I'LL OPEN THE LAUNDROMAT ...
YES.
OH, IS THAT TRUE ?
THERE REALLY ARE SOME NICE PEOPLE.
IT'S GREAT !
ALSO...
SHE IS A BIT LIKE MOM.

AH ?
I DON'T REALLY KNOW IN WHAT WAY, BUT..
SHE IS A BIT LIKE HER.
BY... BY THE WAY, WHAT DO WE DO WITH THESE BOY'S CLOTHES ?
DO WE GIVE THEM TO SHUU ?
I'LL WEAR THEM !
YES...
THAT'S GOOD ...

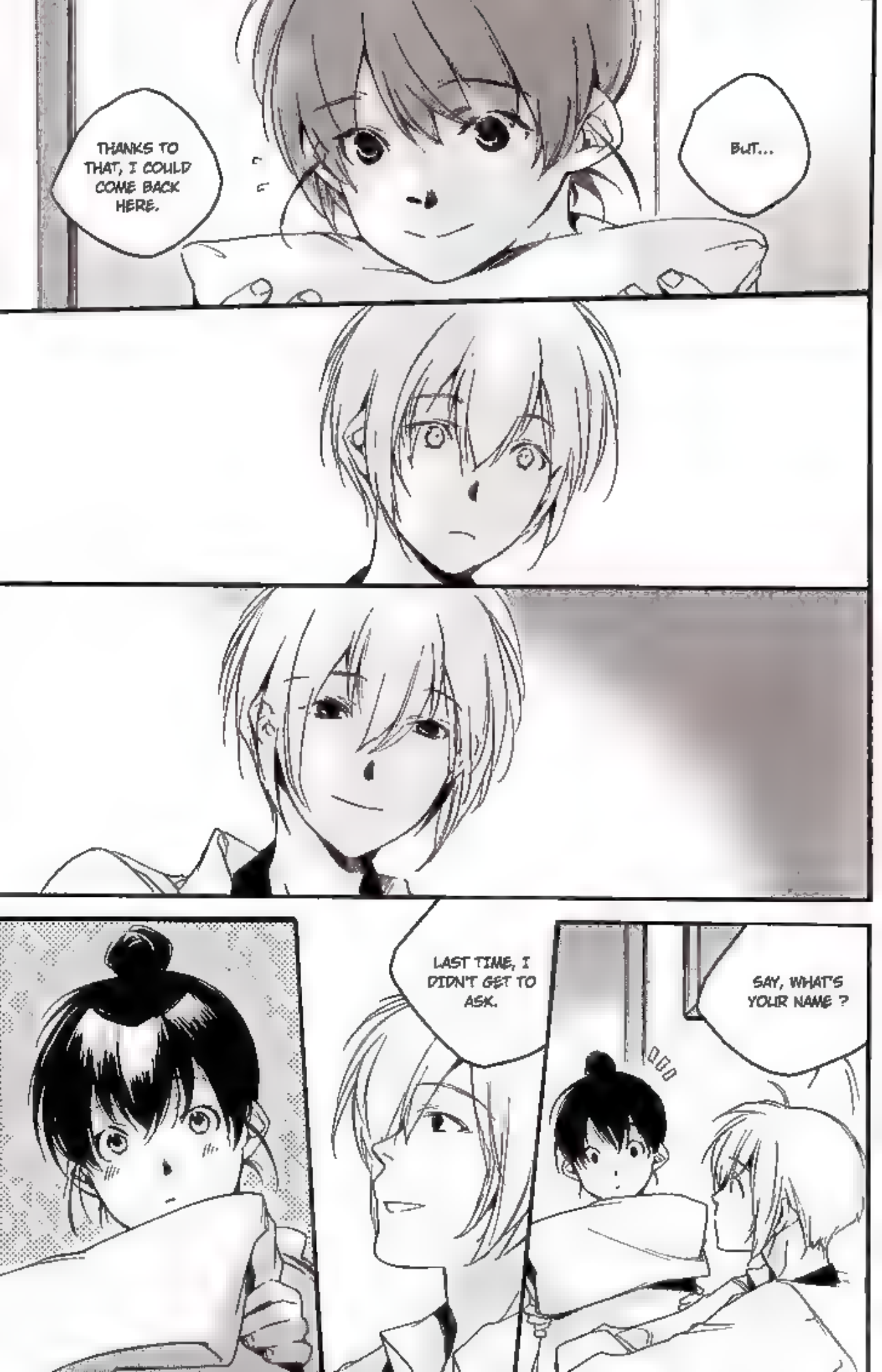
BUT, THEY ARE FOR BOYS ..
A LONG TIME AGO... MOM MADE A MISTAKE AND BOUGHT ME SOME BOY'S CLOTHES.
AH ! ACK !
I WAS WRONG BY ONE NUMBER ON THE PRODUCT'S REFERENCE !!
THEY SENT ME SOME BOY'S CLOTHES !
IT WAS A REMNANT SALE, SO I CAN'T SEND THEM BACK ...
I AM SORRY. WILL YOU STILL WEAR THEM ?
AH ! LOOK, LOOK !!
IT SUITS YOU !!

I'M SORRY !
NO ! I CHOSE THE ONES WITH THE GIRAFFE !
I'M TELLING YOU I'M SORRY !
IT DOES NOT SUIT ME AT ALL !
I WILL NEVER WEAR THAT !
SORRY ...
AAH, GEE, YOU'RE CRYING AGAIN ..
STUPID MOM !
I'M SORRY, KOHARU.

I'LL MAKE ANOTHER ORDER.
HERE...
DON'T CRY. .
BUT I KEPT CRYING AND I NEVER PUT THE CLOTHES ON.
SO I WANT TO WEAR THESE ONES.

COME ON !
WORK ALREADY !
WHAT IS HAPPENING, MASAMUNE ?
AH, SORRY.
DID I WAKE YOU UP ?
GEE...
IT SEEMS LIKE THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THE WASHING MACHINE.
THAT MACHINE
IT DOES NOT WORK ANYMORE ..

I KNOW A PLACE WHERE THERE ARE SOME MACHINES !
CAN I BRING OUR CLOTHES THERE TO WASH THEM ?
KINOUCHI LAUNDROMAT
KINOUCHI LAUNDROMAT
OUR WASHING MACHINE IS NOT WORKING ...
IT'S BROKEN ? THAT SURE IS PROBLE-MATIC !
HE..
HELLO.
AH, WELL...
HELLO !


THANKS TO THAT, I COULD COME BACK HERE.
BUT...
LAST TIME, I DIDN'T GET TO ASK.
SAY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME ?

KOHARU.
KOHARU ? WHAT A CUTE NAME !
I'M YUISA.
NICE TO MEET YOU...
The 27th Day : FIN

MYGIRL

Pleasure To Live With You...

COME ON ! LET'S GO GET A DRINK !

DON'T INVITE ME ONLY BE-CAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO GO TO THE HOSTESS CLUB ANYMORE !

NO WAY !

ER...

!

IF YOU'RE FINE WITH A DRINK...

I'M WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH YOU...

EH?

AT FIRST, I ONLY WANTED TO CREATE AN EXCUSE, BUT...

SHE... SHE LOOKED SO SAD WHILE SHE WAS SAYING THAT THE LAUNDROMAT LADY LOOKED LIKE HER MOTHER SO ...

YOU MADE KOHARU BELIEVE THE WASHING MACHINE WAS BROKEN ?

NOW, WHEN I COME HOME, I FIND A NOTE.

"TODAY, YUKI IS HELPING ME WITH MY HOMEWORK ...*

"TONIGHT, I'M EATING WITH YUKI ...*

EVERY EXCUSE IS GOOD ENOUGH TO GO AND SEE HER.

Masamune,

I'm going to see Yuki

Koharu

I DON'T THINK I'M A MODEL FATHER.

LAST TIME, SHE CAME HOME AT 9PM !

9PM !

BUT...

I ALSO TRY TO FILL THE ROLE OF THE MOTHER AND I THOUGHT I WAS DOING A PRETTY GOOD JOB.

BUT IT SEEMS LIKE IT WAS ONLY A FEELING...

TAC

I CHOSE THE WRONG PERSON TO TALK TO.

I'M LEAVING !

AH, I FOUND THAT ODD... YOU WHO ALWAYS HURRY ON HOME AT THE SAME TIME, TO OFFER ME TO GO FOR A DRINK! YOU'RE ACTUALLY DEPRESSED !

HA! HA! HA!

YOU GOT KOHARU STOLEN FROM YOU BY THE LAUNDROMAT LADY ?

THAT'S SO LAME !

HA!

UH ?

ANYWAY, WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT ?

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT !

AND IT'S ALWAYS SAID THAT A FATHER CANNOT RIVAL A MOTHER.

WE ADMIRE A PERSON MORE WHEN SHE HAS NO LINK WHATSOEVER TO US.

I THINK YOU'RE DOING A GOOD JOB.

DON'T WORRY ...

SHE WILL GROW WEARY OF IT AND COME BACK TO YOU SOON.

IT'S PROBABLY EVEN HARDER FOR A LITTLE GIRL.

EVEN FOR ME IT TOOK SEVERAL YEARS TO BE ABLE TO THINK CALMLY ABOUT YOUKO.

!

I... I'M HOME...

HOWEVER...

I THOUGHT I HAD DONE MY BEST DURING THESE THREE YEARS.

Masamune,
I am with Yuki
koharu

SO,
WHEN SUDDENLY
ALL THIS TIME SPENT
LOOKS LIKE NOTHING
BECAUSE OF A TOTAL
STRANGER...

.....

I CAN
ONLY FEEL MY
POWERLESSNESS...

BUT I HAVE AN EXAM AT 2PM...

DID I FORGET TO TELL YOU ?

TODAY IS SUNDAY, AND THE WEATHER IS GOOD, HOW ABOUT GOING SOMEWHERE ?

KO-... KOHARU...

1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 21
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30

EH!?

AH...

14 15

Koharu Exam

IN...IN THAT CASE, MAYBE I WILL DO THE LAUNDRY ...

!

DID YOU REPAIR THE WASHING MACHINE ?

Sorry

I-... I'M THE ONE WHO FORGOT.

WILL YOU GO BRING THEM TO THE LAUNDROMAT ?

WHEN THERE ARE ENOUGH CLOTHES TO CLEAN ...

NO...

AH...

NOT YET.

ALRIGHT !

PLEASE ...

!!!

DON'T REJOICE LIKE THAT...

See you !

I'll come get you !

See you !

I WAS STUPID...

!!!

MASAMUNE

I'M GOING TO THE LAUN-DROMAT!!

HELLO.

Haa...

ARE YOU...

MISTER KAZAMA ?

I'M COMING FROM THE KINOUCHI LAUNDROMAT.

THERE WERE LOTS OF CLOTHES. I THOUGHT YOUR DAUGHTER WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CARRY THEM ALL SO I BROUGHT THEM BACK...

IT'S HER..

AH... THANK YOU.

HM... IT WILL BE 4880 YEN.

THANK YOU... FOR USING MY SERVICES...

DOES SHE LOOK THAT MUCH LIKE YOUKO?)

Hum...

I DON'T SEE IT

EXCUSE ME.

PLEASE WAIT HERE.

AAH ! THE MONEY !

ER.. CAN I SEE YOUR WASHING MACHINE ?

EH ?

UOP

HUM..

UH ?

AH... ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT REALLY ...

I HEARD IT WAS BROKEN.

IT MUST BE PROBLEM-ATIC FOR YOU...

I ALSO BROUGHT THE CARD OF A REPAIRMAN ...

UH ?

!

DON'T TELL ME YOU ARE USING YOUR DAUGHTER TO FLIRT OUTRAGEOUSLY ?

HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...

WELL... ACTUALLY ...

IT'S NOT BROKEN...

EH ?

YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR !!

BELIEVE THAT IT WAS NOT BY PLEASURE THAT I MADE THIS THING UP !

POOR KOHARU...

I DID THINK YOU WERE YOUNG FOR A FATHER, BUT YOU'RE STILL CHILDISH IN YOUR HEAD TOO !

I COULD SEE HOW SHE WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN BECAUSE YOU WERE A BIT LIKE HERE DECEASED MOTHER.

SO IT WAS NORMAL, AS A FATHER, FOR ME TO CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY !

BUT I DON'T WANT TO ASK ANYTHING FROM ANYBODY !

IT HURTS ME TO SEE THAT I CAN NOT ALWAYS COMFORT HER.

I'LL ADMIT TO BEING A COWARDLY FATHER.

I'M THANKFUL THAT YOU TAKE CARE OF KOHARU, BUT...

MEALS, LAUNDRY... THAT'S ALL VERY NICE, BUT 9PM IS THE HOUR AT WHICH CHILDREN GO TO BED !

EH ?

THOUGH YOU, TOO...

DON'T YOU THINK THAT YOU LACK A BIT OF COMMON SENSE ?

I'M ALSO LOOKING FOR THE BEST WAY TO HELP HER DO HER HOMEWORK ...

AND YOU...

I GO THROUGH PAINS TO MAKE THE EVENING MENUS...

AND KOHARU DOESN'T EVEN COME HOME !

AH...

IT LOOKS LIKE I MADE YOU JEALOUS ...

I'M SORRY.

hi hi

WHAT !?

hi hi

HOW I ENVY HER !

ha ha ha

KOHARU IS REALLY LUCKY...

ha ha

hi hi

IN THE FUTURE, I'LL BE CAREFUL ...

EARLIER, THE LAUNDROMAT LADY CAME.

!

DON'T... DON'T YOU THINK SHE'S A BIT LIKE MOM?

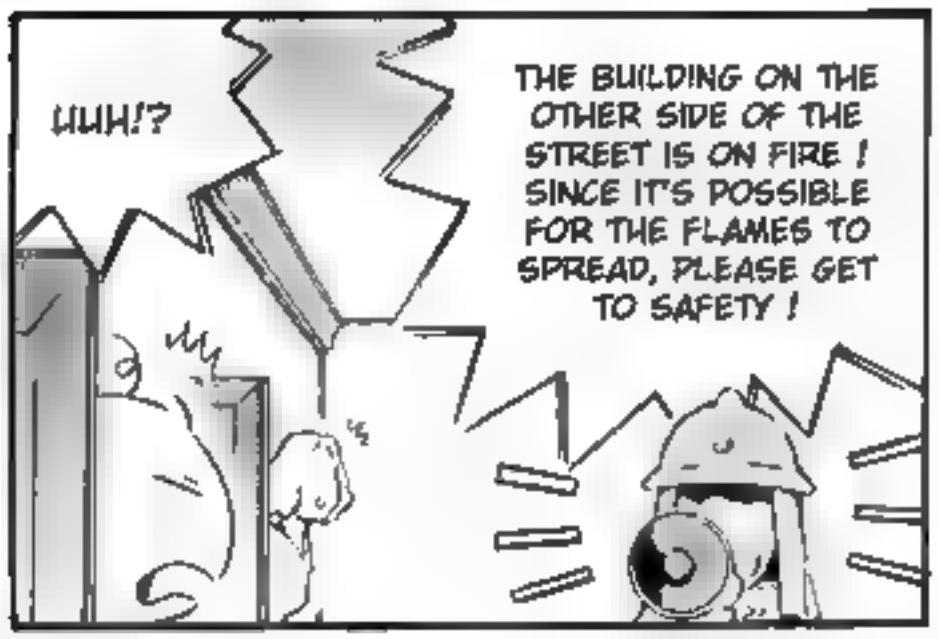
YOUKO...

WAS FAR PRETTIER !

?

?

The 28th day : end.


UUH!?
THE BUILDING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREET IS ON FIRE ! SINCE IT'S POSSIBLE FOR THE FLAMES TO SPREAD, PLEASE GET TO SAFETY !

WHAT... WHAT SHOULD I DO !? FIRST MY WALLET, MY CELLPHONE...
!

THERE WILL BE A BLANK IN THIS ISSUE !
BECAUSE OF YOU...
YOU FOOL ! LOSING YOUR MANUSC-RIPTS !
I'LL KILL YOU !
My editor who took a little weight recently

BUT'S IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH FOR ME...
I'm sorry
HEY, YOU !! DON'T BRING THINGS LIKE THAT IN SUCH A SITUATION !

MYGIRL

Pleasure To Live With You...

The 29th Day:
The Broken Washing Machine 3

THE LAUNDRY BAG IS FULL ONCE AGAIN...

!!!

MASAMUNE!

DO YOU WANT SOME JUICE?

!

GREAT!

THE LAUNDRY BAG IS FULL, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO GO TO THE LAUNDROMAT!

NO, I'M FINE!

!

*T/N: A show where a lone kneeling storyteller depicts a long and complicated comical story

A... A RAKUGO* SHOW?

KINOUCHI LAUN

YES... THAT'S WHAT IT IS!

WITH YOUR MOTHER, WE OFTEN USED TO RUN AFTER YOUNG STORYTELLERS!

13TH SPECTACLE NOCTURNAL FESTIVAL

Doors opening 9pm
Start of the show 9 30pm

YOU USED TO RUN AFTER THEM? MY MOTHER DID SUCH CHILDISH THINGS?

I-... I WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT SO...

SHE WOULD MOST LIKELY BE PLEASED, SO WILL YOU PLEASE PUT THEM ON HER GRAVE?

I ALSO HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS I HAD FORGOTTEN TO GIVE HER!

ER... YES.

THANKS.

AH...

YES...

AH...

ALSO, AS USUAL... I BROUGHT MY HUSBAND'S SHIRT TO BE CLEANED, AND...

13TH SPECTACLE NOCTURNE FESTIVAL

Autograph Signing 4pm to 5pm

WOW... SHE LOOKS REAL HAPPY...

AT HER AGE...

STILL...

SHE IS SMILING ON EVERY PHOTO...

.....

CTACLE FESTIVAL

Doors opening 9pm
Start of the show 9:30pm

XXXX
XXX
XXXXXX

THANK YOU, AND GOODBYE!

KINOUCHI LAUNDROMAT

KINOUCHI L

!

HELLO!

OUR LAUNDRY BAG IS FULL AGAIN!

HERE !

!...

A...

A LITTLE...

!

SO, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH I LOOK LIKE YOUR MOTHER?

AH?

..

YOU KNOW ...

I'M GLAD I LISTENED TO YOU AND TOOK THIS LAUNDROMAT OVER..

ha ha REALLY?

THANKS TO THE CLIENTS...

THAT MAKES ME HAPPY!

I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT MY MOTHER.

I FOUND OUT WHAT HER INTERESTS WERE AND WHAT SHE LIKED TO DO ...

WHEN I WASN'T COMING HOME BECAUSE OF MY WORK...

ANYWAY, COMING BACK TO MY LIFE FULL OF REGRETS...

IS JUST A WAY FOR ME TO INDULGE MYSELF.

IT'S OKAY TO HAVE REGRETS SOMETIMES.

BUT I THINK WE SHOULDN'T BOTHER THE PEOPLE CLOSE TO US.

BUT IN THE END, THE ONLY THING I CAN DO IS REMEMBER HER.

YOU SHOULD GO HOME...

AND TRY TO PLUG YOUR WASHING MACHINE BACK IN.

I'M SURE YOUR MOTHER LOVED YOU A LOT...

UH?

BUT I KNOW YOUR FATHER LOVES YOU JUST AS MUCH.

YOU STILL HAVE A WONDERFUL FATHER.

SO TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM!

DO FOR HIM WHAT I COULD NOT DO FOR MY MOTHER..

Bip

Vuu
uu
uu

?

?

?

?

Vaa aaa

Vaa aaa

!

YES, SEE YOU ...

WELL THEN SEE YOU, MR. KAZAMA...

AH KOHARU! YOU'RE ALREADY HERE?

Vara Vara

SAY...

YOU CAME BACK EARLY ...

AH!

turn

Vaa Vaa

Vvaa aa

Vaa Vaa

Vvaa

DARN...

AH...

klinG

ER...HEY, KOHARU...

DO YOU WANT A COOKIE?

.....

NOT NOW...

AH...

O-... OKAY...

.....

I'M SORRY !

I-...

IT WAS ME THAT WANTED TO BE DECEIVED BECAUSE I CAN'T FILL THE VOID THAT YOUKO LEFT...

BUT MAYBE, ACTUALLY ...

IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE STILL A CHILD...

I THOUGHT YOU WERE PROBABLY HURTING MORE THAN ME AND I MADE THAT RIDICULOUS THING UP...

I BEHAVED LIKE A CHILD...

QUITE THE OPPOSITE, WHEN YOU LIE, IT BECOMES EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO TELL THE TRUTH.

IN THE END, IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING ...

I FEEL LIKE...

I CAN'T REMEMBER MOM AS WELL AS BEFORE.

EH?

AH...

BUT SOMETIMES, I DON'T REMEMBER VERY WELL.

I THOUGHT I COULD REMEMBER LOTS OF THINGS. .

FOR EXAMPLE, THE TASTE OF THE SHIRUKO* SHE USED TO MAKE ME...

* T/N Traditional Japanese dessert made from sweet red beans

I USED TO BE SO SAD, I THOUGHT ABOUT MOM EVERY DAY...

SO WHY DO I THINK ABOUT HER LESS AND LESS?

IF I END UP FORGETTING HER, MOM WILL BE SAD...

I THOUGHT THAT WHAT I WAS DOING WAS BAD, SO I WAS TRYING WITH ALL MY MIGHT TO FIND HER AGAIN...

BUT I UNDERSTOOD ...

WHY I WAS NOT THINKING ABOUT MOM ANYMORE...

IT'S BECAUSE I'M NO LONGER SAD.

IT'S BECAUSE MASAMUNE IS HERE.

MASAMUNE ...

AND...

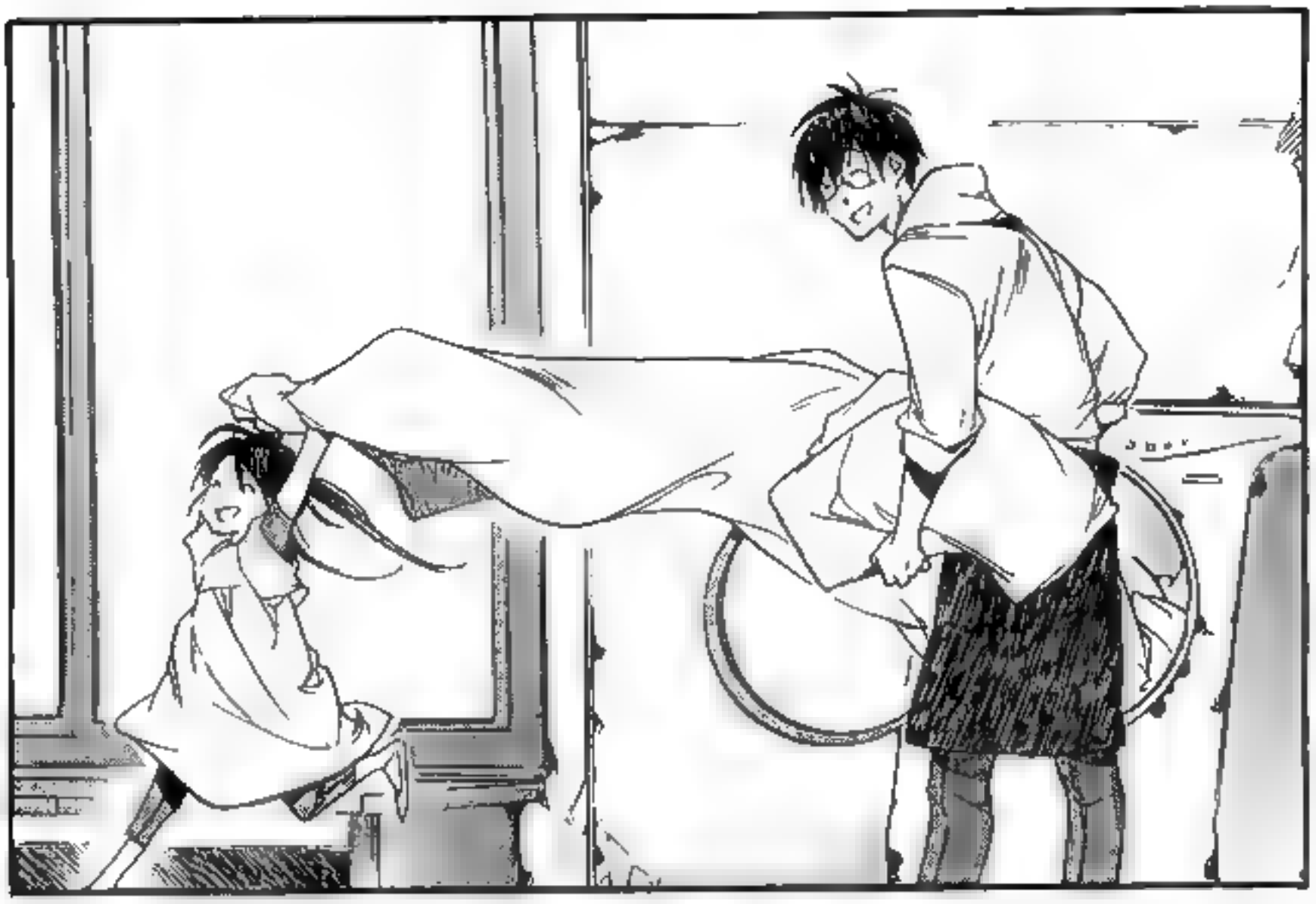
I DID SOMETHING EVEN WORSE ...

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU TELL A LIE!

BUT...

THANKS YOU FOR LYING TO ME...

HM...



The 29th Day.FIN

MY GIRL

The 30th Day: A Friend Of The Heart

MY GIRL

TAC
TAC

FINALLY, I'M DONE...

I'LL GO AND BUY SOMETHING TO MAKE DINNER WITH BEFORE GOING HOME...

WHAT ?! MATSUSHITA, YOU'RE GOING TO AN ARRANGED MEETING?!

WHEN IS IT?

TOMORROW!

THAT EARLY!?

ME, I THINK IT'S A GOOD THING! ALSO, MARRIAGE IS TRENDY THESE DAYS...

DON'T TELL ME YOU'LL GET MARRIED AND LEAVE TH S COMPANY BEFORE I DO...

So lucky!

MY FAMILY INSISTED...

WELL, I'M GOING JUST LIKE THAT!

I THOUGHT THAT ARRANGED MEETINGS WERE THINGS OF THE PAST, BUT...

Blah

Blah

GOODBYE ...

TONIGHT'S VERY AGITATED ...

WHAT ?

AN ARRANGED MEETING!?

IS THIS A JOKE?

TO COME AT MY PLACE THIS LATE, ASKING ME SUCH A THING ALL OF A SUDDEN..

ONE OF MY REGULAR CLIENTS ASKED ME. SHE DIDN'T FIND ANYONE FOR HER DAUGHTER!

EXACTLY!!

AND IT'S NOT RIGHT TO THIS WOMAN FOR ME TO GO JUST FOR FUN!

YOU'LL ONLY NEED TO SIT THERE...

IN THAT CASE, DO IT SERIOUSLY!

MEET HER, MASAMUNE!

DO YOU PLAN ON STAYING SINGLE YOUR WHOLE LIFE?

ERR... WELL...

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO CONVINCE YOU, AND WHEN I TOLD HER ABOUT IT, SHE TOOK IT EVEN MORE TO THE HEART THAN I DID...

AND...

AND WHY ARE YOU ALSO HERE?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEEL RESPONSIBLE ABOUT YOUKO!

Don't say something stupid..

C-...

CALM DOWN, MRS. TSUKAMOTO!

DON'T TRY TO FOOL ME!

YOUKO LEFT ME WITH KOHARU!

ALSO, YOU SEE...

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ALONE.

IT'S NOT THAT I'M NOT TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY ...

IT...

IT MIGHT NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT I'M READY TO BEAR ANYTHING I'LL NEED TO...

I, WHO RAISED YOUKO ON MY OWN, KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!

OF COURSE CHILDREN CAN SOMETIMES BE A GREAT HELP.

YOU'RE NOT TAKING THIS SERIOU-S.Y ENOUGH!

BUT THERE ARE LOTS OF SITUATIONS WHERE THEY CAN'T BE RELIED UPON!

IT'S OBVIOUSLY FOR YOU, AS WELL AS FOR KOHARU...

IF I'M ASKING YOU TO THINK ABOUT YOUR LIFE WITH SOMEBODY ELSE...

BUT I WOULD LIKE IT IF YOU DIDN'T STOP THERE.

YOU'RE ONLY TALKING ABOUT KOHARU'S EDUCATION.

BUT IT'S MOSTLY SO THAT YOUKO CAN FEEL REASSURED ...

IT'S NOT BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO AN ARRANGED MEETING...

THAT YOU MUST THINK ABOUT MARRYING NOW.

I WOULD ONLY LIKE FOR YOU TO GO FORWARD ...

BUT IT MIGHT BE SELFISH OF ME TO ASK THIS FROM YOU...

hu hu...

.....

!

SHE'S PRETTY ...

YES...

IS THAT THE PERSON YOU'RE MEETING TODAY?

YES... IT SEEMS SO.

THAT'S RIGHT.

THESE ARRANGED MEETINGS, THEY'RE FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO GET MARRIED?

YOU WANT TO GET MARRIED?

AND YOU...

!

I ONCE WANTED TO...

I THINK...

MR. KAZAMA

ARE YOU READY?

AH...

SURE.

REALLY? THAT'S GREAT NEWS!

BY THE WAY! ANNA TOLD ME THAT NEXT YEAR, WHEN SHE'S DONE WITH HER STUDIES, SHE WILL GET MARRIED!

AS A RESULT, SHE VISITS LOTS OF PLACES FOR THE CEREMONY.

AND SHE ASKED ME TO COME WITH HER, THIS WAY I'LL GET TO EAT FOR FREE. .

I GUESS IT'S FINE ..

PLEASE COME IN.

Alright

Stop that!

Ah, Here she is!

THEN.. I'LL TICKLE YOU AND MAKE YOU LAUGH!

I'M.. I'M GETTING NERVOUS.

!

HM?

THANK YOU...

MISS... MS. MATSU-SHITA!?

AH, KAZAMA !?

BUT HOW COME...

SH-... SHE'S A COLLEAGUE FROM WORK ...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

ACTUALLY, I WAS THE ONE TO INSIST...

HE HE

I TOLD EVERYONE THAT I WAS GOING TO AN ARRANGED MEETING TO MAKE MY FAMILY HAPPY, BUT...

DO YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?

IS THAT SO?

SORRY IT TURNED OUT TO BE ME...

I WAS TOLD THAT THE PERSON COMING TODAY WAS TAKING THE PLACE OF ANOTHER AND HAD A KID..

BUT I DIDN'T REALLY CARE AND I CAME WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING AT THE PHOTO.

THE PHOTO WAS FROM MY COMING OF AGE CEREMONY. THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME!

NO, DON'T WORRY!

QUITE THE OPPOSITE, I FEEL RELIEVED!

TODAY, I'LL BE ABLE TO EAT WITHOUT MINDING MY MANNERS!

THAT'S RIGHT, KOHARU ...

SORRY, I'M NOT THE GOOD CANDIDATE FOR THE ROLE OF MOM...

DON'T WORRY ...

YOU MUST BE HUNGRY, RIGHT?

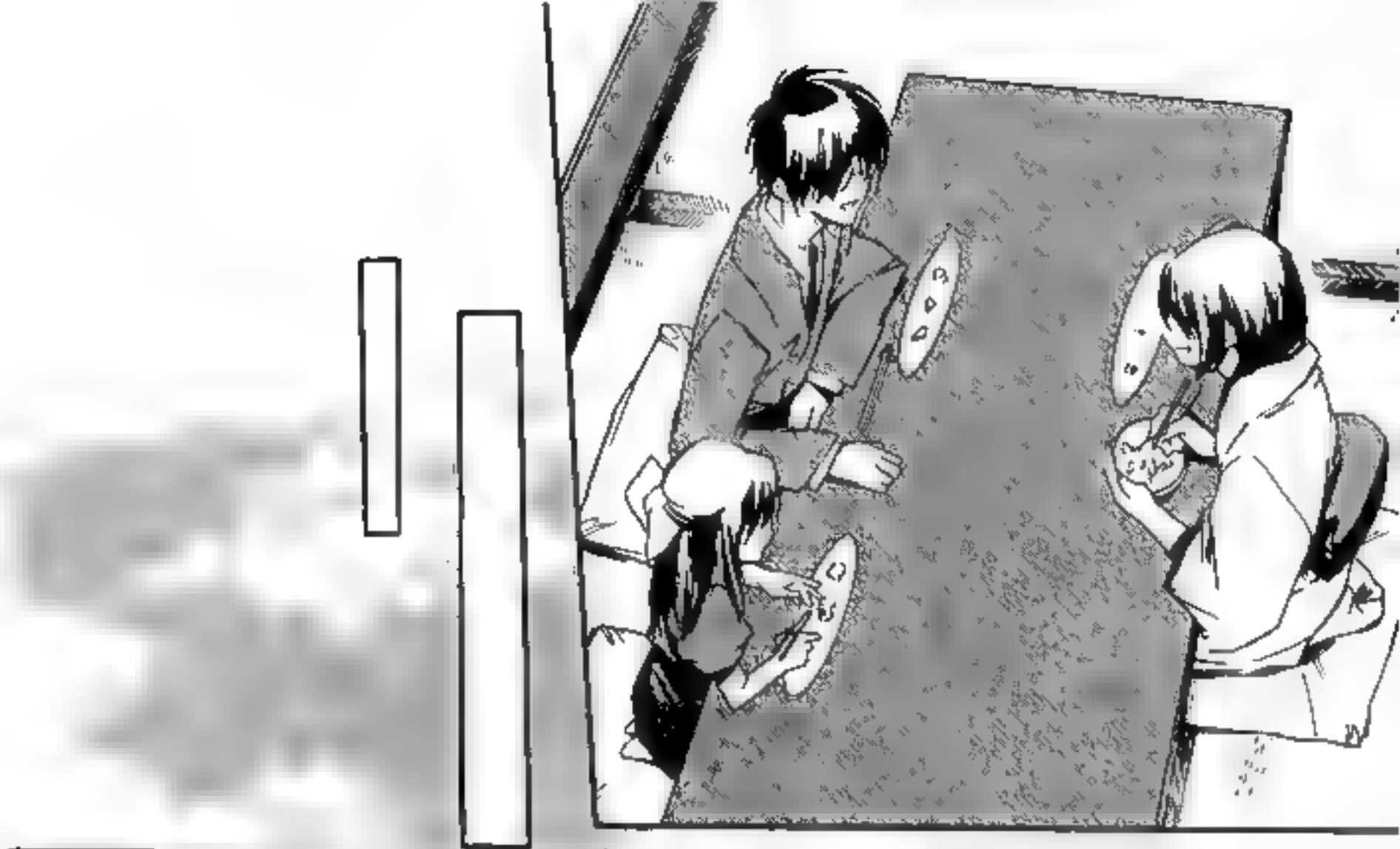
LET'S ASK THEM TO BRING US THE LUNCH!

KO... KOHARU!

OH...

IS SHE YOUR DAUGHTER ?

WHAT WAS HER NAME?


NO, I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE THANKING YOU
THANK YOU FOR TODAY. I HAD A GOOD TIME.
WELL, I MEAN...
NEXT YEAR, I'LL BE THIRTY!
I THINK IT'S GREAT ...
MS. MATSUSHITA, SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTS TO GO TO ARRANGED MEETINGS?

IT'S AN AGE WHERE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE AND ARE NOT CAPABLE OF.

AND THE CONFIDENCE WE USED TO HAVE AS YOUNG PEOPLE DISAPPEARS IN NO TIME.

WHEN I WONDERED WHETHER OR NOT I'D BE ABLE TO LIVE ALONE FOR MY WHOLE LIFE...

I GOT VERY SCARED.

LOOKING FOR A HUSBAND IS A DIFFICULT THING, BUT...

I BELIEVE YOU WILL HAVE IT EVEN TOUGHER TO FIND A WIFE.

...

UH?

AT FIRST, I THOUGHT OF IT LIGHTLY.

THAT IF IT ALLOWED ME TO HAVE A CHILD PAINLESSLY ... A SINGLE FATHER WOULD BE FINE.

BUT ...

IN THE END, WHEN I FACED HER...

I REALIZED THAT HUGGING HER WASN'T ENOUGH.

YOU NEED TO GET ANGRY... SOMETIMES SPANK THE CHILD...

I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GUIDE THE CHILD OF ANOTHER WOMAN IN LIFE...

AND TO SERIOUSLY PREOCCUPY MYSELF WITH HIS FUTURE.

.....

HM..

THERE ARE ONLY FEW PEOPLE LIKE YOU, KIND ENOUGH TO CROSS THE BRIDGE AND BECOME THE PARENT OF A CHILD OF SOMEBODY ELSE.

YOU HAD BETTER BE READY FOR THAT.

Ha Ha Ha

WELL, LET'S WISH EACH OTHER GOOD LUCK!

AND WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER ON MONDAY AT WORK...

KOHARU!

LET'S GO HOME, ALRIGHT ?

ALRIGHT!

BUT FIRST, WE'LL GO SEE YOUR GRANDMA TO REPORT BACK.

ALSO, I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL HER.

I'M SORRY TO COMPLICATE YOUR LIFE...

DON'T BE.

THE FACT THAT YOU WENT IS BY ITSELF A BIG STEP...

SO IN THE END ... SHE WAS A COLLEAGUE FROM YOUR OFFICE?

YES, I'M SORRY ...

MADAM, I THINK YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT SOMETHING.

YOU STILL FEEL RESPONSIBLE BECAUSE OF YOUKO, BUT...

IF I'M ALONE, IT'S BECAUSE NO WOMAN CAN COMPARE TO HER..

EH?

IN OTHER WORDS, THE DAUGHTER YOU GAVE LIFE TO... WAS, TO ME, THE MOST WONDERFUL OF ALL WOMEN.

WHY CAN'T YOU TAKE PRIDE IN IT?

THAT IT'S NOT THAT EASY TO FILL THE VOID SHE LEFT.

YOU, WHO LIVED WITH HER FOR A LONGER PERIOD THAN ANYBODY ELSE... YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF IT...

!

THAT'S WHY...

YES, THAT'S WHY...

BUT I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU TOLD ME.

BEGINNING A NEW LIFE WOULD BE BENEFICIAL BOTH TO ME AND TO KOHARU...

THE DAY KOHARU ...

STOPS PURSUING THE SHADOW OF YOUKO...

AND REALLY WANTS A NEW MOTHER...

THAT DAY, I'LL DO WHATEVER I CAN.

SO PLEASE, BE PATIENT AND WAIT FOR THAT DAY...

THE MAN FROM THE MEETING WAS MR. KAZAMA!?

WHAT!?

YES! FUNNY, RIGHT?

DON'T TELL ME...

.....

OF COURSE NOT! I'M NOT SO DESPERATE THAT I'D JUMP ON A SINGLE FATHER!

ALSO, I'M NOT READY TO RAISE THE CHILD OF ANOTHER WOMAN!

OH?

WHERE DID KATAGIRI GO?

BUT POOR MR. KAZAMA!

IT'S DIFFICULT TO FIND A WIFE WHEN YOU ALREADY HAVE A CHILD!

MR. KAZAMA!

...

HUH HUH

OH? MISS KATAGIRI, YOU'RE ALSO HAVING LUNCH ON THE ROOF?

That's rare

IS...

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU HAD AN ARRANGED MEETING WITH MS. MATSUSHITA?

UH?

IT'S UNFAIR.

WHAT?

AAH, YES, THAT'S TRUE!

YOU ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THAT? IT'S EMBAR-RASSING!

WHEN I ARRIVED IN THIS COMPANY, YOU WERE STILL ONLY THINKING ABOUT YOUKO...

AND EVER SINCE YOU TOOK KOHARU IN...

YOU KEEP SAYING THAT YOU'LL STAY SINGLE...

AND NOW... NOW...

?

?

ME... I HAD GIVEN UP!

IT'S UNFAIR ...

EXCUSE-ME!

ER...

ME, I'M HERE!!

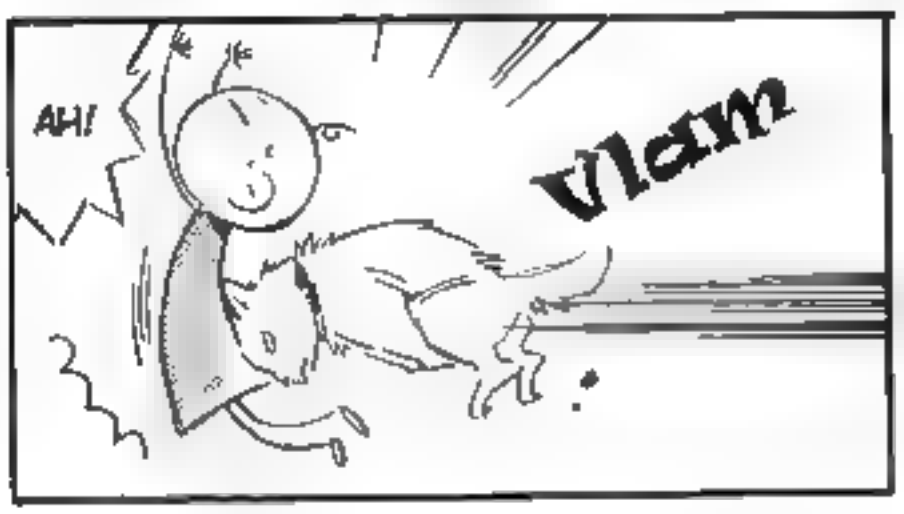
I'M READY ... TO RAISE THE CHILD OF ANOTHER WOMAN !!

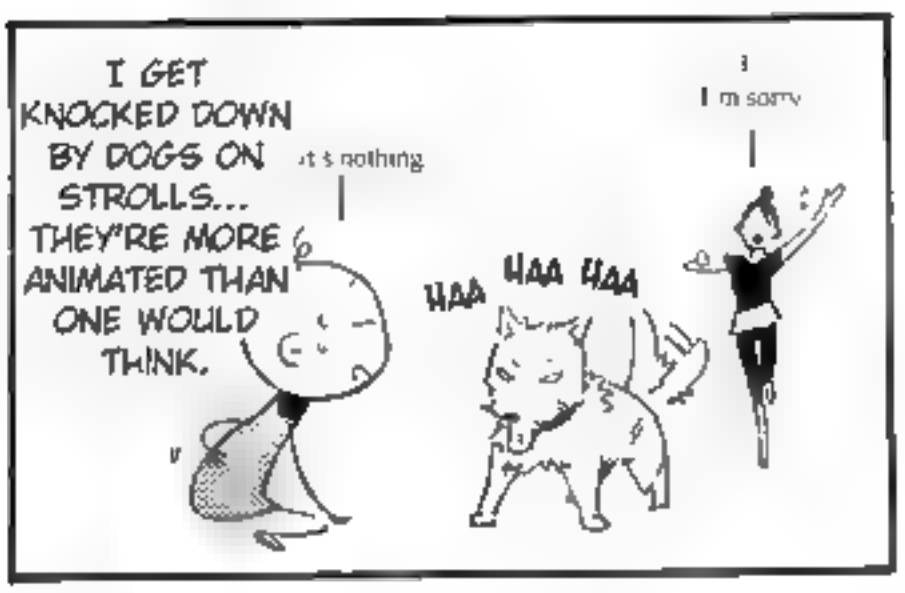
?

The 30th Day:FIN

WHEN I GO TAKE A STROLL IN THE PARK AT DAWN...

Hello
Hello!
Good morning
I GREET THE OLD PEOPLE WHO ARE RUNNING...


AH!
Vlam


I GET KNOCKED DOWN BY DOGS ON STROLLS... THEY'RE MORE ANIMATED THAN ONE WOULD THINK.
It's nothing
I'm sorry
HAA HAA HAA

The 31st Day:The Shape of Marriage

SNAP

SNAP

IT'S SO HOT

Phew-

OH, GOOD AFTER-NOON!

OH, KAZAMA-SAN! PULLING WEEDS, EVEN ON A SUNDAY?

WHERE'S KOHARU-CHAN?

KOHARU-CHAN WENT OUT FOR LUNCH WITH THE ELDER SISTER OF ONE OF HER CLASSMATES

IS THAT SO? YOU MUST BE LONELY BY YOURSELF

IT'S REALLY HOT OUT TODAY, SO DO BE CAREFUL

I WILL, THANKS

NUMBER EIGHT, DOWN THE HATCH!

Bridal Fair

YOU'RE TRYING ON DRESSES NEXT, YOU KNOW DON'T BLAME ME IF YOUR STOMACH STICKS OUT

H HOLD ON, ANNA!

YOU'VE BEEN PIGGING OUT THIS WHOLE TIME ..

BUT IT'S ALL FREE! IT'D BE A WASTE NOT TO EAT AS MUCH AS I CAN .

You're such a worrywart, Shirou.

YOU GUYS SHOULD EAT UP, TOO

Yup!

chew

Ok!

chew

chew

WHY ARE YOU GETTING MARRIED?

UH. UMM, ANNA-CHAN?

WHAT?

He hei

WELL, DUH I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO GO JOB-HUNTING, AND IF I BECOME A WIFE, I WON'T HAVE TO WORK!

WHA!? THAT'S YOUR REASON!?

Job-hunting?

IT WAS A JOKE!

Sigh

F . FOR ME, IT'S BECAUSE ANNA IS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN ANYONE

I'M GLAD YOU FEEL YOU CAN RELY ON ME, BUT

TO THINK YOU JUST WANTED A RELATIONSHIP WHERE YOU'D BE MY DEPENDENT.

GRANDMA TOLD MASAMUNE-KUN THAT HE NEEDS TO GO ON AN OMIAI

I WONDER IF MARRIAGE IS SOMETHING PEOPLE ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO DO

I THINK PEOPLE WHO GET MARRIED ALL HAVE THEIR OWN REASONS FOR DOING IT, BUT.

F FOR ME, TO PUT IT SIMPLY,

IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO SHIROU, I'D WANT TO BE THE VERY FIRST PERSON THERE TO HELP HIM

EH ?

I THINK IT'LL BE OKAY IF YOU'RE THERE FOR HIM

NOT THAT IT'S REALLY NECESSARY IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU DO IT OR NOT

Got it?

That's a relief.

AND MASAMUNE-SAN HAS YOU, KOHARU

HE'LL BE FINE IF YOU'RE THERE TO SAVE HIM

SO WHENEVER MASAMUNE-SAN'S IN TROUBLE,

OKAY!

YEAH, THAT SOUNDS LIKE HIM.

Be safe!

HE SAID THE GRASS IN THE YARD'S GOTTEN OUT OF CONTROL, SO HE'S PULLING WEEDS TODAY

SPEAKING OF MASAMUNE-KUN

ISN'T HE OFF FROM WORK TODAY?

HE SHOULD'VE COME WITH YOU

GUESS WE GOTTA GO

YOU GUYS SHOULD TRY ON SOMETHING TOO

OH, YES, THANK YOU

E. EXCUSE ME, AKIHO-SAMA AND YOSHIDA-SAMA?

IF YOU COULD PLEASE MOVE ON TO THE DRESSING AREA.

Ehh? Already?

ta-da!

Yeah!

They have wings!

ANNA-CHAN, YOU LOOK LIKE A PRINCESS!

Whoa!

But it doesn't have any wings

THANKS

TH.S IS THE CHEAPEST ONE TO RENT

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

BUT THIS DRESS IS PRETTY TIGHT

BURP

GUESS I ATE TOO MUCH AFTER ALL

UGh...

WHAT IS IT?

EH?

AHHH! ANNA-CHAN!

!!

HEY!
ANNA, WHAT'S WRONG!!?
AH, HOLD ON
HER BREATHING'S SHALLOW
WHICH MEANS .
Shirou-kun!
Waaah!
What do we dooo? Shirou!
Waaah!
cough cough
BWAAH!
THANK GOD!
HONESTLY! DON'T WEAR SUCH A CONSTRICTIVE DRESS AFTER PIGGING OUT LIKE THAT
SHUT UP, THIS WAS THE CHEAPEST ONE!

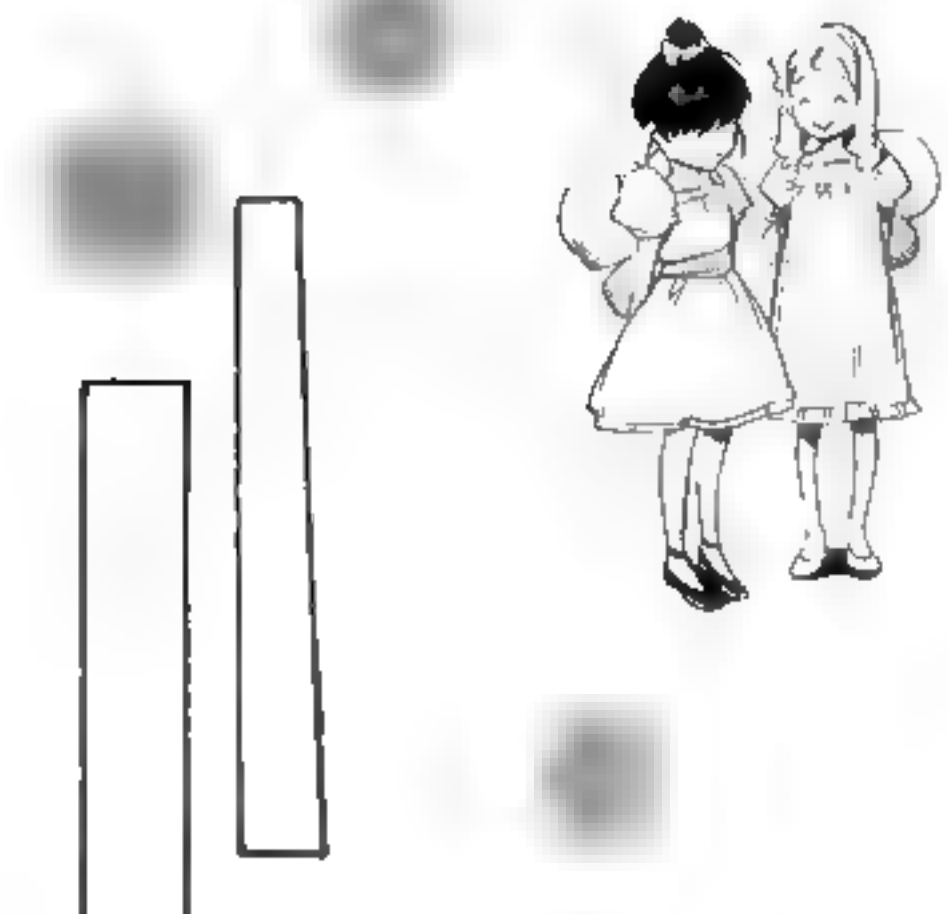
I'LL TRY TO SAVE MASAMUNE-KUN, JUST LIKE SHIROU-KUN SAVED ANNA!

YEAH, HE WAS LIKE A PRINCE!

He he

EH?

SHIROU'S LIKE A PRINCE!



MASAMUNE-KUN, I'M HOME!

WEEELL, LOOKS LIKE I OVERDID IT WITH PULLING WEEDS AND GOT TOO TIRED

Hup

BUT I'M FINE NOW

OH, KOHARU-CHAN WELCOME BACK

WH WHAT'S WRONG, MASAMUNE-KUN?

THUD

...

SWAY

SHALL WE MAKE SOME SHAVED ICE?

Y

YEAH

MA

MASA-MUNE-KUN!

WHAT'S WRONG?

ARE YOU OKAY? MASAMUNE-KUN!?

...!

WH WHAT SHOULD I DO?

I HAVE TO MOVE HIM INSIDE.

HEY, WAKE UP! MASAMUNE-KUN!!

COME ON, WAKE UP!!

Hnnn!

H . HANG IN THERE!

I'LL GET YOU INSIDE!

WAH!

SLIP

WAAAH!

WHAT DO I DOOO?

WAAAH!

WAAAH...

IT IT'S MASAMUNE-KUN

HE'S .

OH DEAR! IS THAT KOHARU-CHAN?

WHY ALL THE CRYING?

I I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE.

YOU CLEARLY DON'T HAVE MUCH PHYSICAL ENDURANCE, SO DON'T OVERDO IT LIKE THAT!

You idiot!

THE DOCTOR SAID YOU ALMOST GOT HEATSTROKE!!

WHO PULLS WEEDS UNTIL THEY COLLAPSE!?

I'M REALLY SORRY KOHARU-CHAN

I SCARED YOU, DIDN'T I?

WELL TAKE IT EASY FOR THE REST OF TODAY

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF KOHARU-CHAN

THANK YOU.

SHALL WE GO GET SOMETHING TO EAT BEFORE HEADING HOME?

OH WHAT ABOUT YOUR HUSBAND?

FORGET ABOUT HIM, HE'LL BE FINE!

UH .. UMM, GRANDMA.

DIDN'T YOU COME TO TALK TO MASAMUNE-KUN ABOUT GOING ON OMIAI?

EH?

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

HE'S A WONDERFUL SOON.

Oh, sorry

HE'S NOT THAT POPULAR ANYWAY, I'M LETTING IT GO.

OH, NO, I GIVE UP!

HE PROMISED THAT IF A TIME COMES THAT YOU WANT A MOTHER OTHER THAN YOUKO,

HE'LL LOOK FOR SOMEONE.

RIGHT NOW MASAMUNE-KUN STILL CARES VERY MUCH ABOUT YOUKO-SAN, BUT

AND ABOUT THE OMIAI

NOW, WHAT SHALL WE HAVE TO EAT?

I'LL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU. .

A MAMA THAT'S NOT .

MAMA. .

YES, THANKS FOR YOUR CONCERN

ARE YOU FEELING BETTER NOW?

WHAT KIND OF PATHETIC SHUT-IN ARE YOU!?

YOU PASSED OUT JUST FROM PULLING WEEDS?

cackle cackle

!!

BZZT

EH?

AH!

Y, YES!

I AM!

KATAGIRI-SAN, ARE YOU FREE RIGHT NOW?

OH YEAH!

HUH?

SORRY TO BE A BOTHER, BUT COULD I ASK YOU TO MAKE A COPY OF THIS AND PUT IT ON THE BOSS' DESK..?

SO I WANTED TO GO NOW TO BUY SOME

I WAS THINKING I'D MAKE CURRY FOR DINNER TONIGHT,

WELL, ACTUALLY THIS ONE SUPER-MARKET IS HAVING A GREAT SALE ON POTATOES AT NOON

SORRY! THANKS FOR YOU HELP...

H— —NN

Who knows..

What's with her?

I'M SORRY, MAMA.

BUT BY MYSELF

BY MYSELF..

I CAN'T SAVE MASAMUNE-KUN.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHECK THE TASTE TOO?
I THINK TONIGHT'S CURRY IS PRETTY GOOD!

PLEASE GO TO AN OMIAI, MASAMUNE-KUN.

HUH?

SHE'S GONE!

DON'T WORRY, JUST IGNORE WHAT SHE SAYS

I HAVE YOUKO-SAN, SO

AND THEN PLEASE GET MARRIED

WH WHERE IS THIS COMING FROM, KOHARU-CHAN?

DID MY MOTHER SAY SOMETHING TO YOU?

SHE'S NOT HERE ANYMORE.

SO

PLEASE LOOK FOR A NEW MAMA.

I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU

BUT IT'S ABOUT $2 MORE THAN A REGULAR BOXED LUNCH. SO I RESTRAIN MYSELF TO ONLY BUYING THEM ON DAYS I'VE WORKED REALLY HARD.
Bliss!
LATELY I'M ADDICTED TO CHILEAN SEA BASS (A.K.A. MERO) BOXED LUNCHES
Gasp
I'LL KICK YOU.
I WORKED REALLY HARD AT SLEEPING, SO I'M GONNA GO BUY A BOXED LUNCH.

MYGIRL

Pleasure To Live With You...

The 32nd Day:

Your Feelings,
My Feelings

WAKABA SEMINARS

WAK
03-

SEMINARS
XX-XXXX

AHAHA!

SHUU, WHAT'S WITH THAT GET-UP?

SHUT UP.

QUIT LOOKING AT ME AND SCOOT OVER.

WOW!

SHUU-KUN, YOUR MOM GOT REMARRIED?

MY MOM'S WEDD.NG CEREMONY

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU LEFT SCHOOL EARLY TODAY

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

!

YEAH, EVEN THOUGH SHE'S ALREADY SO OLD, SUCH A PAIN

I DIDN'T ACTUALLY WANNA GO, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD A CHOICE

WHY DIDN'T YOU WANT TO GO?

WASN'T IT FUN?

HUH?

OF COURSE IT WASN'T FUN!

AND ALL HIS RELATIVES ..

JUST THINK THAT I'M IN THE WAY.

?

WHY?

WHY?

OH, FORGET IT! YOU'RE EXHAUST-ING.

grimace

"WHY?" ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? I'M HER PREVIOUS MAN'S K.D

THINK ABOUT HOW IT LOOKS TO PEOPLE. OF COURSE THEY WISH I WASN'T AROUND

WITH MASAMUNE-KUN BEING THE WAY HE IS,

YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM GETTING REMARRIED

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU GET IT OR NOT

.....

HOW EXACTLY IS THIS MY FAULT!?

KAZAMA

KOHARU-CHAN SAID HERSELF THAT SHE WANTS A MOTHER, RIGHT?

THEN YOU SHOULD FIND ONE FOR HER!

I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO HER

SHE WOULDN'T SAY THAT TO ME WITHOUT SOME SORT OF REASON!

IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE!

I SAW SOMETHING SCARY ON TV, SO I'M GOING TO SLEEP WITH MAMA TONIGHT

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE WOULD SUDDENLY WANT A NEW MOTHER, JUST LIKE THAT

KOHARU-CHAN STILL HOLDS YOUKO-SAN PRECIOUS TO HER...

MORE THAN ANYONE.

I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO TELL YOU, BUT CHILDREN ARE A LOT STRONGER THAN YOU THINK

THEY SHOW INTEREST IN LOTS OF DIFFERENT THINGS

MORE THAN SINGLE-MINDED ADULTS, CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FORWARD

AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO'S USING YOUR CHILD AS AN EXCUSE TO RUN AWAY FROM THIS?

STOP BLAMING OTHER PEOPLE.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M..

DON'T YOU KNOW THAT PARENTS NEED TO FIND HAPPINESS AND LET THEIR CHILDREN SEE THEM HAPPY

FOR THE CHILD'S SAKE MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE?

GO PICK KOHARU-CHAN UP

H-HER CRAM SCHOOL WILL BE ENDING SOON

EXCUSE ME .

OH YEAH, RIGHT

SLAM.

DID MASAMUNE-KUN ALREADY GO HOME?

HUH?

YOU SAID SOMETHING HARSH AND SENT HIM OFF AGAIN, HUH

HA HA

I TOLD OUR YOUNG SON THAT THE CAMERA LENS WAS TO A CAMERA, WHAT AN EYEBALL IS TO A HUMAN

A LONG TIME AGO

EH ?

N.

NO, I DIDN'T!

EVERY-THING I SAID WAS TRUE

EVERY DAY AFTER THAT,

HE WOULD PLACE HIS AFTERNOON SNACK IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA.

I JUST IGNORED IT, THINKING IT WAS ONE OF THOSE SILLY THINGS KIDS DO.

BUT AFTER A MONTH WENT BY,

HE CAME TO TELL ME IN ALL SINCERITY THAT HE WASN'T ABLE TO FIND THE CAMERA'S MOUTH

!

HE WAS WORRYING ABOUT SUCH A RIDICULOUS THING FOR THAT WHOLE MONTH.

AND THAT IF HE COULD FIND ITS MOUTH, IT MIGHT TELL HIM HOW TO TAKE GOOD PHOTOS

HE THOUGHT IF HE PUT HIS SNACK IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA, THAT THE MOUTH WOULD OPEN UP...

BUT JUST LIKE MASAMUNE SAID, THE WAY THEY WORRY IS UNEXPECTEDLY COMPLEX AND ILLOGICAL.

JUST LIKE YOU SAID, CHILDREN HAVE A WIDE FIELD OF VISION,

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?

I'M GOING OUT FOR SOME CIGARETTES

YOU WERE BOTH HALF-RIGHT, SO CALL IT A DRAW.

BE CAREFUL HEADING HOME!
BYE SENSEI!!

HUH? WHY HAVEN'T YOU GONE HOME YET, SHUU-KUN?

YEAH.

OH WELL, THERE WAS A PHONE CALL EARLIER FOR SOME REASON MY DAD'S COMING TO PICK ME UP

ARE YOU WAITING FOR MASAMUNE?

THAT'S NICE.

GOD, RELYING ON HIS KID FOR SUPPORT

HOW PATHETIC

WELL MY MOM DID GET REMARRIED TODAY, SO I BET HE'S FEELING LONELY.

...HAS A POTBELLY, HE'S TOTALLY LAME

THE GUY MY MOM JUST GOT MARRIED TO

HUH ?

H.S LOOKS ARE AVERAGE, AND SO IS HIS INCOME.

EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM IS HE'S JUST YOUR AVERAGE OLD DUDE

COME ON, YOU CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF HIM, RIGHT?

SHE SMILES. .

I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT THAT GUY, WHEN MY DAD'S INFINITELY COOLER THAN HIM

BUT .

BUT WHEN SHE'S WITH HIM, SHE SMILES

WHEN SHE WAS WITH MY DAD AND I, SHE WAS ALWAYS GETTING ANGRY OR LOOKING SAD...

SO I REALIZED IT CAN'T BE HELPED...

IT'S A GOOD THING

IF THIS GIVES EVERYONE PEACE OF MIND

WELL, IT'S OVER NOW, ANYWAY

.....

SWING

HYAH!

I'M REALLY GOOD AT SWINGING!

WHOA!

STOP IT, IDIOT!

HUH!?

LISTEN TO...

I'M TELLING YOU TO STOP!

.....

!

YOU'RE A BIG DUMBASS, MOM!!

BUT .

WHAT KINDA MORON CHOOSES A SUCH A DOPEY GUY!?

DAMMIT!

YOU'VE GOT AWFUL TASTE!

STILL.

FROM NOW ON, I DEFINITELY WANT HER TO BE HAPPY.

YEAH.

I'M REALLY SORRY I'M LATE

BUT I'M GLAD SHUU-KUN WAS THERE TO WAIT WITH YOU

ME TOO.

OH!

A LADYBUG

WOW, THERE'S A LOT OF THEM.

AND HERE'S ANOTHER ONE

I WONDER IF THERE ARE POTATO FIELDS AROUND HERE OR SOME-THING

... ...

H... HEY, KOHARU-CHAN?

WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY DECIDE YOU WANT A NEW MOM?

I THOUGHT ABOUT IT A LOT,

AND REALIZED THAT IT'S THE BEST THING TO DO

B .. BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUKO-SAN?

DOES YOU WANTING A NEW MOM MEAN THAT... YOU

I STILL LOVE MAMA VERY MUCH.

TH... THEN WHY...

B BUT I..

I LOVE YOU JUST AS MUCH AS I LOVE HER ..

I... I'M SURE THAT A NEW MAMA WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY

AND IF YOU'RE HAPPY, MASAMUNE-KUN,

THEN I'M SURE I'LL BE HAPPY TOO

AND GRANDMA SAID SO TOO, REMEMBER?

THAT IT WOULD SURELY GIVE MAMA PEACE OF MIND...

BUT NOT JUST MAMA, ME AS WELL..

I WANT PEACE OF MIND .

I GUESS..

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS STILL HOLDING ON ..

REFUSING TO LET GO...

The 32nd Day:FIN

YOU ALL RIGHT OVER THERE?
THERE WAS A PRETTY BIG EARTHQUAKE ONE MORNING, SO I GAVE MY SISTER A CALL TO MAKE SURE SHE WAS OKAY
Well, I didn't even notice there was an earthquake, but...

WHEN I WOKE UP, MY FACE AND PILLOW WERE TOTALLY DRENCHED IN BLOOD. SO THAT WAS A LOT MORE SURPRISING...
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I GOT A NOSEBLEED WHILE I WAS SLEEPING.

...WELL I GUESS THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT SHE'S ALL RIGHT

MYGIRL

Pleasure To Live With You .

The 33rd Day: Rainy Day Coward

NOT AT ALL, YOU'VE BEEN RETURNING HOME ON TIME EVERY DAY, SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL WORK'S PILED UP.

DON'T WORRY, I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF KOHARU-CHAN

I'M SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU, ESPECIALLY ON A SATURDAY...

TSUKAMOTO

I'LL BE BACK BY EVENING, SO UNTIL THEN!

WELL, I'M OFF

BE SAFE!

PSHH

WAAAH!

I'M GETTING ON!

The doors at platform two are closing...

GEEZ!

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU NOT TO GET UP THERE WITH YOUR SHOES ON?

IF YOU CAN'T BEHAVE YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY AT HOME!

BUT I WANTED TO LOOK OUT THE WINDOW RIGHT AWAY .

THE TRAIN ON SATURDAY . .

IS ALWAYS FULL OF FAMILIES GOING ON OUTINGS

DO YOU REALLY INTEND TO STAY SINGLE FOREVER!?

. . .

IT'S STARTING TO FEEL LIKE I'M BEING CRITICIZED FOR THAT...

NAH

WORK'S JUST PILED UP

OH? WHY IF IT ISN'T KAZAMA-SAN! GOOD MORNING!

COMING TO WORK EVEN ON A SATURDAY, HOW ADMIRABLE!

GOOD MORNING

THE OFFICE IS PRETTY EMPTY ON THE WEEKENDS

LOOKS LIKE NO ONE'S HERE...

clatter

IT'S KIND OF NICE

tap tap

IT GIVES ME AN UNUSUAL SENSE OF URGENCY, AND SOMEHOW MAKES IT EASIER TO CONCENTRATE

WHEN A PLACE THAT'S USUALLY SO NOISY IS THIS QUIET

HMM, WHAT'S NEXT

RIGHT NOW.

AND FOR KOHARU-CHAN'S SAKE, BUT MORE THAN ANYTHING...

OF COURSE I WANT YOU TO THINK ABOUT LIFE WITH ANOTHER WOMAN, FOR YOUR OWN SAKE...

I'M GRATEFUL FOR ANY DISTRACTION FROM DEALING WITH THE ISSUE...

I'M SURE IT WOULD GIVE YOUKO PEACE OF MIND...

HUH? KAZAMA-SAN!?

KATAGIRI-SAN

EH? WHY ARE YOU HERE!?

YOU'RE WORKING EVEN ON A SATURDAY?

AND YOU?

OH, YEAH I'VE GOTTEN BEHIND ON WORK, SO I THOUGHT I'D TAKE CARE OF IT ALL IN ONE FELL SWOOP

O

KAY

I REMEMBERED THAT THE EXPIRATION DATE ON THEM WAS TODAY,

AND THOUGHT I MIGHT SNEAK IN TO EAT SOME

REMEMBER THOSE PUDDINGS WE GOT FROM A CUSTOMER THE OTHER DAY ?

I... I, WELL

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TOO, KAZAMA-SAN?

YEAH, SURE

Ha ha..

IN THAT CASE, I'LL HAVE ONE.

OH,

WOULD YOU LIKE ANOTHER ONE?

NO,

ONE WAS PLENTY

BUT CAN YOU REALLY EAT THAT MANY, KATAGIRI-SAN?

Is that your fourth?

NO PROBLEM!

THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW PERKS OF BEING A SECRETARY.

SO I WANNA EAT MY FILL!

UH... UMM! IF I CAN BE OF ANY USE, I'D BE HAPPY TO HELP

HAHA.

I SEE

THANKS, BUT I CAN HANDLE IT

BESIDES, THERE ARE SOME THINGS I NEED TO TH.NK ABOUT ALONE.

OH RIGHT

TH THEN I'LL BE GOING

ANYWAY, IT'S THE WEEKEND. YOU SHOULD HEAD HOME!

SHIAAA

DRIP DRIP

AND THAT'S IT!

IT'S GOTTEN PRETTY LATE

I SHOULD HEAD HOME

WHEN DID IT START

WS HH

HUH!?

IT'S RAINING!?

I DIDN'T BRING THE LAUNDRY IN BEFORE COMING HERE ..

NOW IT'S GOING TO GET RUINED

DUD

I MADE IT TO THE STATION .

BUT I COULDN'T LEAVE AFTER ALL

WHOA!? WHAT'S WRONG, KATAGIRI-SAN!?

YOU'RE SOAK NG WET!

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED RIGHT AFTER I ENTERED THE COMPANY?

HUH?

ON MY VERY FIRST DAY, I SPILLED TEA ON A COPIER AND BROKE IT

EVERYONE ELSE WAS JUST LAUGHING, BUT

YOU CAME WITH ME TO APOLOGIZE FOR IT

EH .

I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU.

EVER SINCE THAT TIME, I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE YOU. .

THINKING, "HE REALLY IS A KIND AND CONSIDERATE PERSON "

THAT WAS THE START OF IT. .

I CAN'T MOVE PAST THESE FEELINGS

BUT AS I THOUGHT, REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOUR RESPONSE IS, UNTIL I HEAR IT

AND AGAIN, WHEN I FOUND OUT YOU WERE TAKING IN YOUR CHILD, I TOLD MYSELF TO GIVE UP ON YOU

WHEN I FOUND OUT YOU WERE STILL HUNG UP ON A WOMAN NAMED YOUKO-SAN

CAN'T MOVE FORWARD

IF THERE'S ANY CHANCE YOU COULD COME TO LIKE ME EVEN JUST A LITTLE.

OR IF THERE'S NO WAY YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN ME, CAN YOU PLEASE TELL ME?

IF NOT, I

EVEN IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE, I WANT YOU TO START LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE..

KAZAMA-SAN!

FWIP

I I'M SORRY

I DON'T KNOW

PEOPLE.

DON'T YOU KNOW THAT PARENTS NEED TO FIND HAPPINESS AND LET THEIR CHILDREN SEE THEM HAPPY

WHO PASS THEIR DAYS NORMALLY..

COMPLAIN THAT THE NORMALITY IS BORING, BUT...

..FOR THE CHILD'S SAKE MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE?

AND GRANDMA SAID SO TOO, REMEMBER? THAT IT WOULD SURELY GIVE MAMA PEACE OF MIND...

I ALSO...

WANT PEACE OF MIND...

WHEN THERE'S A HUGE CHANGE IN THEIR LIVES..

THEY SUDDENLY BECOME COWARDLY,

AND TRY TO PRESERVE THAT NORMALITY

BUT

K, KAZAMA-KUN?

UMM... TSUKA-MOTO-SAN.

UH!

UP.

SORRY, GO AHEAD.

I BROUGHT THIS, IF YOU STILL WANT IT..

I.. HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AT THE LIBRARY LATELY, SO...

WHAT'S UP? WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE...?

UH... WELL... I..

W... WEEELL... ACTUALLY I...

STARTED LIKING YOU...

I'VE BEEN... AVOIDING THE LIBRARY...

EH..

.....

HUH?

B... BUT THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT THESE FEELINGS TO GROW ANY MORE THAN THIS,

SO I WON'T MEET WITH YOU ANYMORE, OKAY?

OH, NO! I'M WELL AWARE THAT I'M FOUR WHOLE YEARS OLDER THAN YOU,

AND I DON'T ACTUALLY EXPECT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN BETWEEN US, DON'T WORRY!

BUT I'LL GRATEFULLY ACCEPT THIS.

GOODBYE.

P...

PLEASE EXPECT SOMETHING.

UH... UMM... IN OTHER WORDS...

YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED BY JUST HOW MUCH I LIKE YOU...

SO...

PLEASE EXPECT SOMETHING.

THEN ..

I WILL!

BUT
YOUKO-SAN

K

KATAGIRI-
SAN!

I.

I HAVE A
DAUGHTER
THAT'S IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL...

I'M
STILL

AND SHE IS EXTREMELY PRECIOUS TO ME

I HAVE TO PUT HER ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE.

THIS MUCH.

I DON'T THINK I CAN GO OUT WITH SOMEONE

THE WAY NORMAL PEOPLE CAN

.THIS MUCH

I ALSO NEED TO FACE FORWARD, SO

SQUEEZE

I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU

LET'S GO OUT..

TRUTHFULLY I CAN'T GIVE YOU A DEFINITIVE ANSWER TO WHAT YOU ASKED

BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND THAT

SO I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER IF THIS PATH

I'M CHOOSING.

...ISN'T A MISTAKE ..

LET'S GO OUT...

MYGIRL

Pleasure To Live With You...

MY GIRL

Pleasure To Live With You...
To The 34th Day...

You're More Beautiful Than Anyone...

I HAVE A MEMORY OF PUTTING MAKE-UP ON MY SLEEPING FATHER WHILE PLAYING WITH MY SISTER WHEN WE WERE YOUNG.

T/N: KOHARU'S YUKATA IMPLIES THAT THE FISH WERE WON AT A STREET FESTIVAL. SOME JAPANESE BATHTUBS CAN BE TURNED ON TO HEAT UP THE BATHWATER, SO HE MUST'VE TURNED IT ON TO DRAIN A BATH WITHOUT REALIZING THERE WERE FISH IN THERE.

The Folly of Ignorance

WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL I PUT SIX FISH IN THE BATHTUB. MY MOTHER BRILLIANTLY BOILED THEM ALL UP FOR ME...

AFTERWORD

WHILE WORKING THIS TIME, I WAS BLESSED WITH THE CHANCE TO MEET LOTS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF PEOPLE. I COULDN'T SEE IT BEFORE, BUT NOW I TRULY UNDERSTAND THAT UP UNTIL NOW I'VE BEEN SAVED BY SO MANY PEOPLE.

I KNOW I'M A PRETTY UNSOCIABLE PERSON... AND I COULDN'T EVEN MANAGE TO SAY A SINGLE CLEVER THING... AND THAT ALL I MANAGED WAS A STRAINED SMILE AND BOWING MY HEAD... BUT FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, I AM MORE GRATEFUL THAN ANYONE COULD BE.

THANKS TO THEM, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO FINISH YET ANOTHER BOOK. EVEN NOW, I CAN'T HELP BUT WANT TO HIDE MY WORK, BUT I ASK FOR YOUR CONTINUED ASSISTANCE IN CREATING WORKS THAT I CAN CONFIDENTLY SUBMIT FOR PUBLICATION.

THANK YOU.

SAHARA MIZU,
SEPTEMBER 2009